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PRIVATE MATTERS
HOW CAPITALISM HIDES ITS HOARD >>PAGES 10 & 11

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AFTER **TOFF**-SHORE SCANDAL

BRING DOWN DODGY DAVE



REFUGEES

'We have decided
to live as humans
—and we will'

REFUGEES IN Greece
are resisting attempts to
drive them into camps.

They face border closures
and deportations under a new
European Union deal with
Turkey.

Syrians stuck at the border
told Socialist Worker's sister
paper Workers Solidarity that
they refuse to be turned back.

>>Page 20

FRANCE



New movement rises in occupied Paris square

MORE THAN 100,000
people marched in Paris
last Saturday to defend
workers' rights.

The Place de la
Republique square in Paris
has been occupied by nightly
mass general assemblies.

Student Gael said, "We
discuss everything—with
the aim of bringing all the
struggles together."

>>Page 8

SCHOOLS

Academies fight could help bring down the Tories

TEACHERS RETURN to
school this week with a huge
battle to win. The Tories
aim to force every school
in England to become a
privately-run academy. The
NUT union will next month
ballot teachers for strikes.

>>Page 7



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Mr Cameron had acted with integrity and probity throughout'

Tory justice secretary **Michael Gove** on David Cameron's tax scandal

'He's been whipping up a mob mentality'

Tory minister **Dominic Raab** on Labour leader **Jeremy Corbyn**

'Hyenas'

Raab on Labour MPs demanding answers on Cameron's tax scandal

'Corbyn is trying to take Britain back to the days of class war'

Commons leader **Chris Grayling**. Which days were these?

'David Cameron's father worked hard'

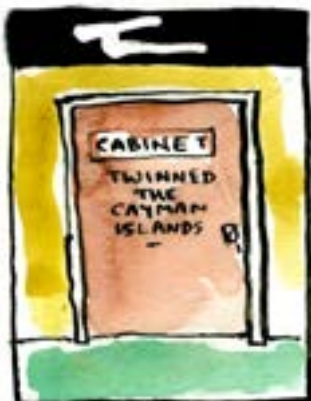
Former defence secretary **Liam Fox** makes a bizarre claim

'Good for Mr Cameron's mother!'

The **Daily Mail** backs Cameron's mother handing him £200,000

'A worrying minority want to kill us'

The Sun's **Trevor Kavanagh** worries about Muslims



Why did the press bury a story about Tory minister?

TORY CULTURE secretary **John Whittingdale** has had a lengthy relationship with **Olivia King**, a woman who works as a professional dominatrix and escort.

So what?

The Sunday People, The Sun and Mail on Sunday all had the story but didn't run it.

As culture secretary Whittingdale has a powerful influence over press regulation.

Whittingdale was an advisor to Margaret Thatcher and is a member of the Cornerstone Group, a group of traditional conservatives with the motto "Faith, Flag and Family".

One Whitehall source told journalist **Jim Cusick** that Whittingdale is "the culture secretary **Rupert Murdoch** dreamt of."

Number 10 knew what newspapers held on Whittingdale's private life.

Whittingdale was accompanied by **Olivia King** at locations including the MTV Awards in Amsterdam in November 2013. He is said to have taken



Whittingdale poses for a Sun newspaper attack on Labour's **Seamus Milne**

her to the river terrace of the Palace of Westminster to watch the 2014 New Year fireworks over the Thames.

Between 2011 and 2014, the Department of Culture Media and Sport committee, which Whittingdale chaired, conducted an inquiry into the future of the BBC.

It ran a lengthy and high-profile investigation into phone hacking at News International.

Pictures of Whittingdale and King together were hawked around the press. Reporters were sent to the village where King lives. Neighbours were spoken to. Hacks visited the Dungeon club in Earls Court.

But no story appeared

The Independent newspaper was a tenant of Associated Newspapers who own the Mail.

The Independent began investigating why the Whittingdale-King story had never been published.

The Independent then killed its story.

Troublemaker hasn't.

THE RIGHT wing press is in a frenzy over the European Union (EU) referendum.

One Daily Express headline declared, "If we vote to remain in the EU Britain will be struck by a giant wave of hidden laws".

Its front page headline on Monday of this week read, "EU WANTS CONTROL OF YOUR PENSION."

Socialist Worker is for a leave vote in the EU referendum—but not for the same reasons.



THE DAILY Mail unveiled the roots of criminality this week. It revealed that two year olds who have tantrums "could already have taken the first steps towards a life of crime". The paper warned against dismissing such tantrums as the "terrible twos". In fact they could indicate future "psychopathic behaviour".

Flying through the assessment for cash

THE TORIES have lauded the "fit for work" assessments that disabled people are forced to go through. But a Channel 4 Dispatches programme has revealed that the tests are a con—and a scam for firms to make money.



One assessor, Alan, working for government contractor Capita said he "flew through" the assessments to get more cash.

He said, "I was getting 20 grand a month, most months. We was flying through them because of that money."

Alan said he assessed one claimant before even meeting him.

He said of one, who had lost a leg, "When it gets to the nuts and bolts, he does everything really don't he?"

The tests have wrongly snatched benefits from thousands of disabled people.

Ministers see no evil in offshore

THE REGISTER of ministerial interests shows that 11 ministers have their assets in blind trusts.

These might be invested in kittens and/or weapons.

But it is all good because the ministers keep it a secret.

They include **John Whittingdale**, the culture secretary, **Theresa Villiers**, the Northern Ireland secretary, and **Robert Buckland**, solicitor-general.



GCHQ

WHEN THEY aren't pressuring Muslims to spy on other Muslims or spying on us, the spooks are protecting rich authors. GCHQ spies helped stop the sixth Harry Potter book being leaked online, according to the Sunday Times.

Nigel Newton from publisher Bloomsbury said, "GCHQ rang me up and said, 'We've detected an early copy of this book on the internet'. I got him to read a page to our editor. "But it was a fake."

Sun says NHS destroyed by obese children

NEWS THAT more children are being treated for obesity was music to the ears of right wing hacks this week.

The Daily Express screamed, "WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN LIFE?"

For the Sun, overweight children became the scapegoat for all the problems facing the NHS.

"We can't demand more funds for the treasured NHS but still allow kids to gorge," it explained.

"The health service is going to collapse under the weight of our greed."

Nothing to do with cuts, PFI debts or Tory plans to privatise it then.



FAULTY FIRM

Coutts Posho private bank

●Founded in 1692 is based on The Strand in London.

●The queen is among its wealthy clients

●It asked Panamanian **Mossack Fonseca** to set up almost 500 offshore firms through its Jersey offshoot

●Coutts was already under investigation by German authorities for potentially helping clients avoid paying tax

You pay for Sam Cameron fashion advice

TROUBLEMAKER is happy that public funds pay the salary of a "special adviser" who helps **Samantha Cameron** with her social diary and fashion style.

The aide—normally a position for people who help government ministers—receives up to £53,000 for providing the advice.

Rosie Lyburn, a former model and granddaughter of late Conservative politician **Lord Elliott**, was hired after last year's general election.

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Rage at Tories' hypocrisy bursts onto the streets

by ELEANOR CLAXTON-MAYER
and NICK CLARK

ANGER AT David Cameron spilled onto the streets last Saturday. In central London over 1,000 people laid siege to the Tories outside Downing Street and the Conservative Party's spring conference.

Another 1,000 people in Newcastle marched in solidarity with junior doctors on the same day.

The protests came after revelations that Cameron had profited from an offshore account set up by his late father (see pages 4&5).

But they expressed a much more deep-seated anger against the Tories. Alice Smith and Joanna Gibbs travelled from Chester to join the London protest. Joanna said, "Cameron's damaging everything good about our society. The NHS, benefits, everything."

Alice said, "He's fucking the old, he's fucking everybody who could possibly be ill in the future."

Joanna added, "I don't know if he'll resign, but we need to keep doing things like this. It's the fact that he lied about it—this could be the straw that broke the camel's back."

The London march was reminiscent of the angry, militant and young protests after the Tories' general election win last May.

This mood was matched in Newcastle,



Joanna Gibbs and Alice Smith travelled down from Chester to join the protest



PROTESTERS TRY to lure David Cameron out of Downing Street with an effigy of a pig (left) People march against Jeremy Hunt's plans to privatise the NHS in Newcastle (above)

with one protester telling Socialist Worker that the march was her first demonstration in 30 years.

And one speaker told the Newcastle rally, "Public services aren't too costly. If we take the money being hidden in offshore Panama accounts, there would be enough to fund welfare ten times over."

After gathering outside Downing Street protesters ignored police and marched

to block the entrance to the Grand Connaught Rooms conference venue. Several top Tories, including David Cameron, were speaking inside.

Once outside the protesters shouted "resign" and "Cameron out".

Millionaires

But college student Andrew said, "It's not enough to get rid of Cameron. We need a new government."

Junior doctor Jack agreed, "I'm here to show opposition to this government of millionaires."

The protesters marched back to Downing Street, shutting Whitehall with a sit-down open air meeting.

They discussed how to build resistance on the back of the anger that has resurfaced after the tax revelations.

Paula Peters from Disabled People Against the Cuts (Dpac) told the sit down, "Let's make this the summer and autumn of discontent against this government."

There were calls for a bigger fight-back in Newcastle too. Teacher Dan Kebede said, "It is up to us to unite together, teachers and doctors, and stop this government." (see pages 7 & 17)

In London protesters agreed that the next step is the People's Assembly demonstration in London this Saturday. TV comedian Jolyon Rubinstein said, "If this is how big this protest is, imagine how big it could be next weekend."

For more see bit.ly/1Ypy9Wr and bit.ly/23oviKB

Hillsborough jury is out

THE HILLSBOROUGH inquests jury retired on Wednesday of last week to consider its decisions.

The jury will consider the medical cause and time of death of the 96 Liverpool fans who died as a result of the 1989 football disaster.

Jurors will also consider what factors caused or contributed to the deaths. These include looking at police preparations for the match, policing on the day, commanding officers' action, fans' behaviour and stadium design.

The jury will also consider whether the fans were unlawfully killed.

The coroner, Sir John Goldring, reminded jurors, "Nobody has suggested that there was

any hooligan behaviour which contributed to this disaster.

"There is no coherent evidence of supporters conspiring to force entry to the ground.

"There was no evidence from any audio visual material suggesting any misbehaviour."

He said that the jurors cannot name people who may have been responsible for manslaughter.

But in order to decide if fans were unlawfully killed, they would "have to be sure that match commander David Duckenfield was responsible for the manslaughter by gross negligence".

The inquests continue.

Sadie Robinson

For more see bit.ly/1VfaFnQ

IN BRIEF

Tory diktats for Tower Hamlets

TORY MINISTERS have refused to return local democracy to the east London borough Tower Hamlets.

The Tories took control of the council in 2014 and sent in unelected commissioners after former mayor Lutfur Rahman was removed.

Despite a call from the current Labour mayor John Biggs for control to be returned, central government control is set to continue into 2017.

Benefit change robs low paid

LOW PAID working families on the Universal Credit benefit are set to lose up to £200 a year from this week.

The change to the work allowance component affects tens of thousands of people.

Announced in George Osborne's last budget, this is the first of a round of £3 billion more in welfare cuts. They will hit around 1 million people by 2020.

Steel buyer is based offshore

THE FIRM that some hail as "the saviours of steel" will be basing the new holding company...offshore in Jersey.

Greybull Capital this week bought Scunthorpe steel works and two mills in Teesside from Tata. The new structure will be called British Steel.

It has "rescued" several companies in recent years such as Monarch airline.

All the companies are held in Jersey, and profits will not be subject to capital gains tax.

For more on the deal turn to page 19

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Tory posh boy admits he IS a rich tax dodger

It took six days to get it straight—but Cameron did profit from daddy's tax scam, writes **Simon Basketter**

THE GRUDGING release of at least some of the information about David Cameron's finances shows he moves in a world of great wealth.

He profited from an offshore fund, but he also grabbed far more. After a week of stalling the prime minister released a summary of his tax returns for the past six years.

Cameron was handed £200,000 by his mother because, it is claimed, she felt his £300,000 inheritance from his father was not large enough.

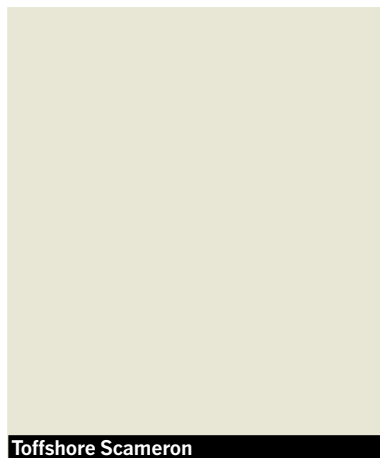
Mary Cameron is believed to have inherited shares in her husband's Blairmore Holdings, which was based in Panama and then in Ireland. That's alongside money he left in Jersey, another tax haven.

Gifts

Gifts from family members are not liable for inheritance tax seven years after they are made. This means if Cameron's mother lives until 2018, he will pay no tax on the money.

Records show Cameron sold shares worth £72,000. No details were immediately available over what these shares were, or if they had any link to offshore investments.

As well as his prime ministerial salary (over £140,000 a year), Cameron and his wife Samantha



Toffshore Scameron

made in excess of £430,000 over six years from renting out their west London home.

It took Cameron six days to admit that he profited from his father's offshore holdings. On Monday of last week, a spokesperson said, "That is a private matter."

On Tuesday morning, Cameron said, "I have no shares, no offshore trusts, no offshore funds." That afternoon a spokesperson said, "To be clear, the prime minister, his wife and their children do not benefit from any offshore funds."

On Wednesday, Downing Street said that Cameron, his wife, and

PROTESTS HAVE continued in Iceland after prime mininster Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson resigned last week

their children would not benefit from any offshore income in future.

But on Thursday Cameron finally admitted the couple bought their holding from his father in April 1997 for £12,497 and sold it in January 2010 for £31,500.

Blame

On Saturday Cameron said, "I know that I should have handled this better, I could have handled this better. Don't blame No 10 Downing Street or nameless advisers, blame me."

The returns reveal that his lifestyle is enhanced by a series of

financial perks only usually available to the super rich.

Ian Cameron managed funds in Panama, Switzerland and Jersey and was estimated by The Sunday Times newspaper to be worth £10 million.

Yet, when he died in 2009 aged 77, he left only £2.74 million in his English will.

David Cameron intervened personally to prevent offshore trusts from inclusion in an EU-wide crack-down on tax avoidance.

In a 2013 letter to the president of the European Council, the prime minister said that trusts should not automatically be subject to the

same transparency requirements as companies.

Downing Street has failed to release details of the preceding five years, from the time he became leader of the Tory party.

This makes it impossible to calculate the total amount of income the prime minister derived from his father's offshore fund, Blairmore Holdings, during the period he owned shares.

On other pages...

How capitalism hides its filthy hoard >> **Page 10&11**

chairman of HMRC, is a former partner at Simmons & Simmons. He thinks

tax avoidance is "not immoral".

Simmons & Simmons' name appears on dozens of emails and documents in the Panama Papers.

Apparently Troup never had dealings with Mossack

Fonseca and none of the individuals or organisations named so far in relation to the Panama Papers were clients he advised.

The Tory chancellor and his old money bankers

GEORGE OSBORNE says he doesn't have any offshore

holdings.

The Tory chancellor has published details of his income. From his earnings as a MP and chancellor he declared £120,526.

In addition to that he declared making £33,562 in rental income and a further £44,647 from shares—£198,738 in total.

However Osborne, heir to the baronetcy of Ballintaylor and Ballylemon, County Waterford, has a mortgage on his £2 million London home with the 338 year old bank Hoare & Co.

Flipping

This didn't stop him "flipping" his expense claims and avoiding capital gains tax on a London house. Osborne's personal wealth is discreetly hidden from view at Hoare & Co.

We do know he has around £4 million as the beneficiary of a trust fund that owns a 15 percent stake in Osborne & Little, the family wallpaper company. Clients are expected to have

Forced out—Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson

Not all in it together

Boris Johnson says he has no offshore funds but **Johnson's** earnings look something like this

● Member of Parliament—£74,000

● Mayor of London—£143,911

● Newspaper columnist—£274,999.92. According to the time he says he works on it that is £2,291 an hour

● A book deal—£105,531.30

Super rich Osborne is raking it in

a minimum personal income of £250,000 a year. They also usually need to bring at least £500,000 in cash.

Osborne & Little made a £6 million property deal with an undisclosed developer based in the British Virgin Islands tax haven.

● **DEPUTY TORY** party chair Robert Halfon has shares in Jardine Matheson—a firm incorporated in Bermuda. Jardine Matheson was where Cameron had his first job.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

TORIES' CRISIS DEMANDS SERIOUS RESISTANCE

THETORIES are on the rocks. How can we smash them? Even more is at stake than David Cameron's profits from offshore funds, his avoidance of £70,000 inheritance tax or his mysterious share dealings.

A large part of the fury against Cameron is because we have glimpsed a world where hundreds of thousands of pounds are shipped around to avoid tax and to fund luxury lifestyles.

Yet those who benefit from the scams also lecture the rest of us about the need for wage curbs, benefit cuts, ripping up the welfare state and squeezing the NHS.

With their backs to the wall, the Tories briefly put aside their differences over the European Union referendum to defend extreme wealth and privilege.

Sir Alan Duncan MP spoke in the Commons on Monday of how Cameron's critics are "low achievers who hate enterprise".

Duncan is paid £8,000 a month as a non-executive chairman of a Dubai oil company, for which he works three hours a week.

Preposterously the Daily Telegraph newspaper claimed that release of tax returns showed

Cameron and George Osborne "each paid nearly four times more than the Labour leader towards the upkeep of the nation".

That's because they have grossly more money!

It was refreshing to see Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn denounce the fact "that there is now one rule for the super-rich, and another for the rest".

It was even better that Labour MP Dennis Skinner dubbed Cameron "dodgy Dave"—for which he was kicked out of the Commons.

But Labour needs to do more than make speeches.

Why has there been no call for demonstrations over steel jobs?

Labour needs to do more than just make speeches—where are the calls to mobilise?

jihadi brides". In the real world Islamophobic attacks—on women in particular—are rising.

Cops interrogate Muslim school children under the Prevent programme.

And if Muslims dare to speak out, they're witch-hunted as "extremists".

Phillips claimed that Muslims' opinions are out of line because "too many live in a different Britain". But the Mail was forced to admit that surveys show that Muslims tend to have a "strong

Why is there no call to mobilise in support of the junior doctors' picket lines? Why couldn't Labour energetically campaign for this Saturday's People's Assembly demonstration?

And why isn't there a call for Labour-led councils to create a political crisis by refusing to implement Tory cuts until the rich start paying their taxes?

Corbyn will not defeat the Tories by stealth.

We need action, and that can begin by all of us supporting the junior doctors' strike on 26 and 27 April. It means visiting picket lines, joining demonstrations, and pressing our union leaders to break the doctors' isolation by calling their own action.

Building on those struggles means we can also push for a world where the richest 1 percent do not dominate everything.

A world where £17 trillion is not squirrelled away in tax havens and where 147 giant corporations do not control a vast swathe of the world economy.

A socialist world means production for people's needs, not for profit. It requires a struggle against the rich—and against their system.

COUNTER RACIST MYTHS

TREVOR PHILLIPS dredged up every Islamophobic myth to publicise his Channel 4 show, What Muslims Really Think, in the Daily Mail newspaper this week.

The former Equality and Human Rights Commission chair claimed that Muslims are becoming a "nation within a nation".

In Phillips' world Muslim parents "impose an Islamist agenda" on schools.

Girls are "shipped off to have their genitals mutilated" and teenagers are "seduced to become

sense of belonging in Britain" more often than the national average.

To justify his latest attack Phillips claims, "There is a life and death struggle for the soul of British Islam...we need to take sides with liberal Muslims."

Phillips has chosen his side—with the right's attempts to use Islamophobia to divide us and justify more imperialist wars.

Socialist Worker stands in unity with all Muslims against our rulers' racist assault.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 150

● **Nicholas De Genova** on Europe's border regime

● **Kate Davison** on atheism, secularism and religious freedom

● **Megan Trudell** on Bernie Sanders and the US election

● **Shaun Doherty** on the Easter Rising

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FIGURE IT OUT

10 million pounds was the estimated wealth of funds managed in tax havens by Ian Cameron

2.7 million pounds was the amount left in Ian Cameron's English will

0 pounds was the amount that Ian Cameron's Blairmore Holdings trust paid in tax over 30 years

ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER



Social shift is behind support for Sanders

MEDIA COVERAGE of the US presidential elections is dominated by talk of primaries, caucuses, and delegate numbers. But behind the complex details a great social process is being revealed.

The real story is not so much Republican Donald Trump as Bernie Sanders. It's a story that should boost everyone on the left. Over seven million people have already voted for Sanders, who calls himself a socialist, to be the Democratic Party presidential candidate.

More people aged 18 to 29 have voted for Sanders than for Democratic establishment candidate Hillary Clinton and Trump combined.

Sanders defeated Clinton by 56 percent to 44 percent in the state of Wyoming last Saturday. It was his eighth win in the last nine Democratic contests.

For decades any widespread discussion of socialism in the US has been virtually impossible. Years of anti-Communism and red-baiting created an atmosphere in which candidates for office feared to be dubbed "liberal", let alone socialist.

Now Sanders is rising not in spite of his socialist label but because of it. Three months ago dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster announced that "socialism" was the most looked-up word on its website on 2015.

Millions of people want change from a society where the wealthiest 1 percent soar away from the rest. A society where well paid secure jobs are scarce. Where police gun down people—especially black people—with impunity. And where no action is taken over climate change.

Sanders' proposals are woefully inadequate to tackle the vast power of the corporations, the bankers, the military and the rest of the state machine.

But he does offer change. He packs tens of thousands into public meetings because he is such a contrast to Clinton.

Barack Obama's slogan in the run-up to the 2008 election was "Yes we can". Clinton's slogan ought properly to be "No we can't".

She thinks we can't have the things Bernie Sanders supports—such as free tuition in state-funded colleges or a health system like the NHS.

Possible

Yet millions agree with Sanders that all of this—and much more—is possible using the wealth at the top of society.

Class is returning to political debate. In the US it's very rare to hear the media or a politician use the term "working class"—everyone says "middle class". But now 57 percent of people aged 18 to 35 describe themselves as working class.

Sanders' success is a partial reflection of movements. The last two years has seen the Black Lives Matter movement, strikes and campaigns such as the one by the Chicago Teachers Union, the climate change movement and the battle for a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

US unions traditionally get behind the Democratic frontrunner, and the majority back Clinton in this election. But so far four national unions and over 80 union locals (branches or districts) have backed Sanders.

Sometimes workers have ignored their national leaderships to support Sanders. The US media and organising project Labor Notes says, "The Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) came out for Clinton in January. But a month later, Northern California UFCW Local 5, whose 28,000 members work in grocery and food processing, endorsed Sanders."

Mike Henneberry is the local's director of communications and politics. He said "For us, it was not a very difficult decision. Compare an individual who's been supporting workers since he was mayor of Burlington with someone who's been on the board of Walmart."

Clinton is still ahead in the battle for the nomination, although the gap is narrowing. The New York primary on 19 April will be under intense scrutiny.

If Sanders wins, it will terrify the establishment and give even more energy to his campaign.

But the movement for change and socialism needs to break free from the Democratic Party. Its politics, hierarchies and practices make it one of the two main pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist parties. The mood coursing through the Sanders challenge needs to express itself through struggle and to find a political home that can really change the US.



THOUSANDS JOINED a protest last Saturday to defend Lambeth libraries

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Mass march for libraries as Lambeth councillors in crisis

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

SOME 2,000 people joined a march last Saturday in support of the occupation of Carnegie Library in Lambeth, south London.

It was one of the biggest marches locally since protests against the poll tax.

The feeling throughout was that the Labour council is utterly out of touch with people in Lambeth.

Occupier Michaela Loebner said, "We occupied Carnegie Library to say to Labour's councillors, 'You might be spineless, and not willing to stand up to the Tories' cuts, but we're not'."

The march took place on the tenth day of occupation—after the council had got an eviction order against it.

Rather than allow bailiffs to kick children out of the building, occupiers left unified and with a message of defiance.

Fantastic

Michaela said, "The occupation may have ended but this is not over. The fantastic turnout today is living proof of that. Our fight goes on."

Local resident Winsome said, "We ain't giving up. Labour is doing the Tories' dirty work and not standing up for us. I used to be for Lambeth Labour, but they need to go."

The campaign has changed

people. Greta Thompson was one of a group of school students in the occupation. She said the experience had "opened her mind up".

"People protesting for what they believe in is powerful," she said. "We've proved that those who you may not class as revolutionary can fight back."

One occupier, Helen, has also made a big change. On the first night of the occupation she resigned from the Labour Party after 20 years of membership.

"I don't want to be in a



More strikes could win

LABOUR councillor and former cabinet member Rachel Heywood broke ranks and joined Saturday's march.

The right wing Progress Labour group running Lambeth is isolated.

The government is to investigate Lambeth's disastrous library plans.

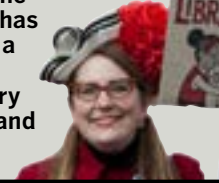
The crucial task is to press home the advantage that has been gained by a campaign that has united library workers, users and local people.

There is

huge support for the library workers.

Their council colleagues voted overwhelmingly for a ballot for council-wide strikes. London Unison union officials are wrong to not call more strikes.

Unofficial action by library workers last year helped to step up the fight for libraries—it can do so again.



On the protest

party that cuts libraries," she said. "This campaign stands for everything that Labour should."

Helen drew parallels with the rise of the Scottish National Party in recent years. She warned, "We lost Scotland because of Labour acting like this. If we're not careful the same thing is going to happen here."

Opportunity

Jeremy Corbyn has not come out to support the fight against library cuts. He has missed an opportunity to bolster his fight inside the party against the right.

And it is having an impact in the campaign for the upcoming London elections.

James joined Labour after Corbyn was elected last year.

He said, "We need Corbyn and John McDonnell to chip in. We're haemorrhaging supporters here as long as they keep going with these ridiculous cuts."

"It's very hard to get Sadiq Khan votes for London mayor, even from those who have voted Labour all their lives, when they are so angry."

Khan's local fundraiser for the elections saw campaigners protest outside.

A further demonstration was planned at Lambeth council's annual meeting this week.

Protest at Lambeth council's annual meeting, Wed 13 April, 6.30pm, go to bit.ly/1Q4dRM4

Academies fight could help bring down Tories

Teachers are preparing to ballot for strikes against the impact of forced academies, reports **Sadie Robinson**

TEACHERS RETURN to school this week with a huge battle to win against Tory education secretary Nicky Morgan.

The Tories aim to force every school in England to become a privately-run academy. This would mark the end of state education and open up schools for privatisation and profit.

NUT union deputy general secretary Kevin Courtney spoke to a meeting of Labour left group Momentum during the NUT's conference in Brighton last month.

He described the Tory plan as "total and complete deregulation" aimed to "drive down conditions". "This is systematically driving the public out of education," he said. "It's education on the cheap."

The NUT will next month ballot teachers for strikes over the impact of forced academisation and funding cuts.

A strike would be an enormous challenge to the Tories—and would boost everyone fighting back.

Paul McGarr is a teacher and NUT union rep in east London. He told Socialist Worker, "In areas with a number of activists, teachers should meet in the first couple of weeks of term."

"This shouldn't be a routine committee meeting."

"Teachers should call together the best activists in their associations and discuss how to mobilise to win the ballot."

Broadest

"From that we need to organise the biggest and broadest meetings of teachers who are willing to help mobilise for the ballot."

"In areas with fewer activists, teachers can find two or three people in their schools who are up for doing something and get them together."

The ballot will begin on 23 May. Paul stressed the importance of moving quickly to make sure as many teachers as possible are involved in building the yes vote.

"We need a sense of urgency," he

**MARCH TOGETHER
TO SUPPORT THE
JUNIOR DOCTORS**

**TUE 26 APR, 5PM
CENTRAL LONDON**

- St Thomas' Hospital, SE1 7EH
- March to the Department of Health
- Called by the London region of the NUT union and the BMA

said. Teachers plan to have "ballot buddies" in school departments to organise and get the vote out.

Activists want the maximum number of school meetings so that more teachers can discuss the dispute.

The NUT has said it will call a national demonstration against the Tories' plans.

Teachers can organise transport from across Britain—and get parents and other campaigners involved too.

There is potential to build a massive campaign against forced academies.

Over 100,000 people signed a petition demanding a public inquiry into academies in under four days.

Teachers are making links with other workers in dispute. The London region of the NUT has jointly organised a protest with the junior doctors' British Medical Association (see box).

And there is anger among parents at the forced academy plan.

The Anti Academies Alliance is hosting a parents against academies meeting in London on Saturday 23 April.

The Tories are in crisis. A mass campaign over academies, involving school strikes, could help bring them down.

Go to antiacademies.org.uk for details of the meeting and other activities



MARCHING AGAINST academies in central London last month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Protests and sleepouts planned as councils could sell even more homes

by **ALISTAIR FARROW**

WHAT IS THE HOUSING BILL?

The bill forces councils to sell off houses that become vacant in order to fund the Tories' new Right to Buy scheme

● Couples with a joint income of over £30,000, or £40,000 in London, will be forced to pay full market rents. This would mean a fourfold increase in rent in some areas

● Secure lifetime tenancies would not apply to new tenants and if existing tenants move they could have their security taken away

● It would take away the right of family members to continue living in the home after a parent died, an attack on carers and dependents

THE TORIES want to change their pro-privatisation Housing and Planning Bill—to make it worse.

Last week the government proposed an amendment that means councils would be pushed to sell off even more council houses.

Housing activists and tenants' groups have stepped up their campaign against the bill.

They have been mobilising for this Saturday's People's Assembly march in central London, and plan a further national housing march on 18 June. This comes after an angry demonstration in London on 16 March when 8,000 people took to the streets.

Activists staged a protest on the steps of Camden town hall, in central London, on Monday of this week to protest against local cuts.

Phoebe Watkins, from Camden Union union was at the protest.

She said, "They're investing their funds in Panama while we're worried about our homes."

"We want our council to take the fight to the government."

"Let's keep the pressure on

the Tories because they're under pressure and I can see them cracking."

Camden Labour councillor and cabinet member for housing Pat Callaghan told Socialist Worker, "We've been fighting the bill the whole way. We've had two

public meetings and then another very big meeting. The march on Saturday is going to be very important."

Local groups are organising meetings and protests to deepen the struggle. These could form the backbone of a national movement.

Housing will be a central issue in the May elections in London.

Tory mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith and David Cameron think London's council estates need to be demolished.

They want to bring in private developers to rebuild on the land with higher density housing.

The new housing could then be sold off to the rich to profit from London's housing bubble.

The Panama papers show that over £170 billion of London property is held overseas to avoid paying taxes.

Kill the Bill groups across Britain have organised sleepouts set for Friday of this week to protest against the bill and show it will make people homeless.

See bit.ly/25s4ukK for a list of times of sleepouts next week. There is also a March for the Homeless set to take place on Friday at 7pm at Downing Street



Nightly mass meetings in Paris organise resistance to new law

Dave Sewell talks to activists about how they are organising a movement and inspiring thousands to join unions and take to the streets

A NEW movement is blooming in France out of the Place de la Republique square in Paris.

It has been occupied by nightly general assemblies since a demonstration against the Labour-type government's attack on workers' rights last month.

Student activist Gael Braibant told Socialist Worker, "Depending on the weather there's usually a few thousand people there every night, mostly young people in precarious jobs."

"We discuss everything—not just the functioning of the occupation but really political debates about the system, the police and the role of violence. And we elected a committee that plans actions."

"It can be chaotic but it allows for a lot of discussion with a lot of people, with the aim of bringing all the struggles together."

Last Saturday more than 100,000 people marched in Paris as part of a day of action called by unions against the proposed Work Law.

That evening up to 2,000 people from the occupation marched to link up with refugees and migrants camping out on the streets of Paris.

Stalingrad

Migrants face frequent police repression. Cops recently cleared them out of the area under the elevated Metro line at Stalingrad station and put up fences to stop them returning.

So occupiers and migrants together went there and took the barriers down. This was followed by a spontaneous march on a police station and then the home of prime minister Manuel Valls.

More than a million people have protested or struck against the Work Law.

Despite school and college holidays, last week saw road barricades in many towns as well as university walkouts on Tuesday and union demonstrations on Saturday.

But there is a question about the movement's leadership.

Main student union Unef held talks with Valls on Monday. Those unions opposing the Work Law have called a second day of strikes and protests on 28 April, too slow for many activists.

The occupation represents an alternative vision of the struggle—and its objectives.

Gael said, "This absolutely isn't a movement that's against political parties or unions. It made a call on

BACK STORY

What does the new employment law mean for workers?

- It would make it much easier for bosses to fire workers with almost no notice
- Bosses say that the law is about increasing employment but it is about attacking workers
- Over a million people have demonstrated against the law so far
- Major trade union federations have called for a day of protests and strikes on Thursday 28 April

them to come down to the square and join in. But it has come about largely outside the existing organisations. Many of the workers here are from sectors with no union organisation.

"One supermarket checkout worker brought people from the occupation to go down to her workplace to convince her colleagues to join a union. About 30 people went down to the St Lazare station to talk to train workers and build for Saturday's demonstration."

On Sunday economist Frederic Lordon, one of the figureheads of the movement, argued that the only way to win was through a general strike.

Cops broke up the occupation early on Monday morning. Activists returned in force that evening.

Denis Godard is a member of the occupation's action committee. In the New Anticapitalist Party's newspaper *l'Anticapitaliste* he wrote, "The occupations give the movement a direction, a questioning of the whole logic of the system, a possibility of bringing together the different fronts of struggle."

"This cannot last and develop without linking the movement of the squares to the struggle in every workplace, every university and college, every neighbourhood."

"The constitution of a new world won't be written by the thousands but by the millions. And not just by talking but by attacking the citadels of power—and by scoring victories starting with the withdrawal of the Work Law."



On other pages...

Organising against the racism of the EU in Greece >> **Page 20**

A MEETING at the Place de la Republique in Paris

PICTURE: MEYER/TENDANCE FLOUE

US sends B-52 bombers to attack Iraq

CHARLIE KIMBER

THE US Air Force has sent B-52 bombers to its air base in Qatar. They will be used in Iraq and Syria.

This is the first time that the giant bombers will be used in the Middle East since the 1991 Gulf War.

They were used then to deliver the mass extermination of Iraqi conscript soldiers.

The B-52 has the capacity to carry over 70,000 pounds in bombs, which includes cluster bombs, cruise missiles and other weapons of mass destruction.

Military

It is the standard aircraft for carpet bombing—as used in Vietnam.

This is all a very long way from the claims by Barack Obama and the US military about "smart" or "precision" weaponry that would avoid civilian casualties.

A B-52 bomber arrives in Qatar

The announcement about the B-52s came as secretary of state John Kerry held meetings in Iraq and Bahrain.

It is widely believed that a major assault will soon be launched on the Isis-held city of Mosul where Iraqi forces suffered a humiliating defeat in 2014.

But the US is concerned that Isis forces may break out of Mosul and head for Baghdad, just six hours

south by road. The B-52s could be used for carpet-bombing around Mosul, a city of a million people.

Repeated reports suggest there are already some 5,000 US troops in Iraq—not the 3,800 the US government normally claims.

They are expected to play an important role in the Mosul offensive, opening up the possibility of still deeper US involvement in Iraq.

Stop social cleansing in Haringey

DAVID CAMERON'S plan for the mass demolition of council estates must be a key issue in the London elections on 5 May.

Cameron announced in January that "the bulldozing of sink estates" was central to his policy agenda. "We can tear down anything in our way," he boasted.

Council officers and developers planned the demolitions at the annual Mipim property trade fair on the French Riviera.

Cameron and the demolition lobby promise that tenants will not lose rights after demolition.

But private developers have no funding and no interest in keeping this promise.

The result will be more exclusion and social cleansing. These are the London Clearances.

Haringey council in north London already has 4,687 homes at risk of demolition.

But the council will not discuss the impact of its new Joint Venture company for tenants on the renewal estates.

Nor will it discuss our concerns about rent and service charge increases after demolition.

We need to punish the Tories at the polls for their housing plans.

We need a London mayor who is prepared to stand up against this government, to demand investment in our homes and communities instead of demolition.

Paul Burnham
Haringey Defend Council Housing



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

When our factory closed we occupied—and so can you

We occupied our Visteon car parts factory in Enfield, north London, in 2009 after we were sacked with no redundancy pay.

I had never done anything like it in my life.

We didn't have a plan. We hadn't got over the shock when we met the day after we were sacked.

A door wasn't locked and it was a bit of luck that we got in. We decided we'd stay because we had nothing else to lose.

At times it was like being on a high. You start to notice what else is happening in the country and the world.

We went out to speak at meetings as we needed support.

You're nervous. You don't know how to talk because you've never stood in front of people.

I spoke to the Turkish centre in Tottenham, north London. A lot of Turkish people came down and supported us. They fed us, they used to have barbecues outside.

One teenage girl walked up and gave me 200 cigarettes for any smokers inside. I was amazed.

All those people were strangers to us. You thought, where have they come from to be so kind?

We ended up getting more than full redundancy payouts. We might have walked out with nothing.

And now I think, people helped

us so we should put a bit back.

When firefighters were on strike I went and stood with them.

If Tata steel workers were picketing near me I'd go and join them.

If they struck or occupied, people would come from all over to support them.

You can fight back. Don't worry about the law.

They're taking your livelihood away from you.

If you don't fight for it, it will go. Stick together, be united and don't sit at home.

Fight to save it.

Linda Bartle
Visteon occupier

Workers need to steel themselves for a fight

THE THREAT to Port Talbot steel works points to the growing mismatch between the organisation of capital and workers' organisation.

Before nationalisation and subsequent privatisation, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) brought together the majority of steel workers in Britain.

Common organisation did not guarantee automatic mutual support, and the ISTC was led by right-wing bureaucrats, but

the potential was there.

Community, descended from the ISTC, organises only a fraction of Tata Steel's total workforce.

Port Talbot contains a powerful set of workers who, with solidarity, stand a good chance of saving their jobs.

But think what their power would look like if they were organised with Tata workers worldwide.

The rest of us need to watch and learn.

John Shemeld
Nottingham

Ask the rich some taxing questions

TO PARAPHRASE the ancient Greek historian Thucydides, the "rich do as they please while the poor suffer what they must". This has become even more apparent after the leaking of the Panama Papers.

It's become clear that David Cameron's father was up to his neck in it.

His fund Blairmore Holdings Inc never paid a penny of tax in Britain on



Panama Papers show we're not all in it together

its profits for 30 years, which is morally wrong.

And a number of Tory donors are linked to very sketchy financial arrangements in the British Virgin Islands.

The Tories truly are the nasty party, the party of

the rich and privileged.

It's time we got them out of parliament once and for all.

Remember, whatever they say, we're not all in this together.

Matt Hockridge
Northamptonshire

Just a thought...

Dump the Thatcherites

THREE YEARS on Thatcher may be gone but she spawned some hideous minions who are finishing the work she started.

And they are laughing all the way to Panama. Get the truth about her ideology out there and get this unrepresentative elite out of politics.

Den Carter
on Twitter

Corbyn needs paper sellers

CHRIS MCKENZIE asks what Socialist Worker Party members are doing to help Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn—and why we "fart about selling papers."

We can only help Corbyn by building the grassroots movements that brought him to prominence.

Socialist Worker is a key tool in building these movements. It is one of the few publications defending Corbyn while others try to destroy him.

Dave Ramsden
Bradford

Lessons in Icelandic

ONE IN ten of Iceland's population were protesting in the streets on Monday of last week.

It was nice to see lots of little Icelanders among them getting a lesson in practical democracy Key Stage 1.

Gary Brane
on Facebook

All out for 16 April demo

GIVE SUPPORT to @socialistworker and @pplsassembly on 16 April.

This will be a chance to stand up, express your voice and unite against the Tories.

Nathan Still
on Twitter

Avoiding tax is beyond me

IN THE Philippines they are running tax avoidance workshops.

But workers there get paid less than £5 a day.

Tax avoidance is the reason Greece is up the creek.

That people are ignorant enough to avoid taxes is beyond me.

Liam Yousef McEwan
Glasgow

Dodging starts at home for Britain's top bosses

LONDON IS the money laundering capital of the world.

According to the National Crime Agency, "Hundreds of billions of US dollars of criminal money almost certainly continue to be laundered through UK banks, including their subsidiaries, each year."

Some £122 billion worth of property in England and Wales is owned by offshore companies. Some 36,342 properties covering 2.2 square miles of London are owned by shell companies while rents for ordinary people go through the roof and working class estates are demolished.

In 2011 alone, £3.8 billion worth of property was bought by British Virgin Islands-registered traders.

Nine of Britain's

biggest companies illegally failed to disclose their ownership of almost 150 offshore subsidiaries based in tax havens in 2012.

Companies House said that enforcing the law would be too "resource intensive". It will only act if a specific complaint is made.

The nine companies were—Aberdeen Asset Management, Ashmore Group, Babcock International Group, Croda International, Meggitt, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, Pennon Group, Rexam and Whitbread.



London—the world's tax dodging capital

Panama City

Wish your money was here?

Even the biggest banks launder 'bricks of cash'

ENORMOUS BANKING institutions such as Deutsche Bank, UBS, the Swiss private bank Clariden, ING, and ABN Amro have actively worked to set up tax evasion schemes for their clients in offshore hiding places.

For instance JP Morgan has 50 subsidiaries in Bermuda, the Bahamas, and others.

Two French banks, BNP Paribas and Credit Agricole, specialise in creating "quick" foreign companies in under 48 hours. These are used for hiding money in a rush.

Royal Bank of Scotland owns at least

128 companies in tax havens. And Lloyds TSB has more than 100 firms in tax havens.

In 2012, the British bank HSBC was fined £1.35 billion for having laundered money for Mexican drug cartels.

However, a 2015 leaked document showed the bank subsequently continued similar operations unhindered.

HSBC ran its Swiss private banking arm as a back alley tax evasion service. It handed its clients "bricks" of hundreds of thousands of dollars in foreign denominations to help them avoid taxes.



PRIVATE MATTERS

HOW CAPITALISM HIDES ITS FILTHY HOARD

BY SIMON BASKETTER

THERE IS an exclusive luxury ocean liner with tens of thousands of cabins. The "Panama papers" leak provides a port-hole into just one of those cabins.

Depending on how you do the sums, up to 15 percent of total global wealth is stored in tax havens—that's £23 trillion, and a lot of yachts and underground garages in Chelsea tax free.

The amount in tax havens has tripled since 2005.

Overall the world's assets should equal its debts. But they don't—and the reason is moving money.

In 2014, at least £5.4 trillion of the world's financial wealth was simply "missing".

So, a British citizen can hold Google stock in a Swiss bank account. The US can then record that stock as a debt—as a foreigner owning US stock. Switzerland does not record it at all, since the stock is not a debt nor an asset of anyone Swiss.

Because it is in a Swiss bank account and involves shares in a foreign company it is not considered to be an asset of the British citizen.

It's a trick only available to the rich. On a huge scale.

Since the 1990s subsidiaries of US corporations declare 58 percent of their profits in tax havens.

As US financial analyst Howard Silverblatt said, "Every dollar saved on taxes is one less dollar you have to earn on sales. It's real money."

Across the globe there has been a race to the bottom to cut taxes on profits.

Convenient

Racing horse stud farms and yachts, as well as being the playthings of the rich, are convenient ways of moving vast amounts of money.

When millions of dollars are found buried in the walls of a global drug dealer this is a sign of excess wealth and criminality. When it is trillions more in tax avoidance it is legitimate business. Or even a private matter.

Governments compete to lower taxes to attract bosses. Onshore scams are as important as offshore ones. They are the reason Rupert Murdoch is really rich, and why Apple is American but makes its stuff in China.

Rich individuals and companies use a myriad of mechanisms to avoid tax.

Many of the world's tax havens are British-run overseas territories, such as the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and British Virgin Islands, and crown dependencies such as Jersey,

Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

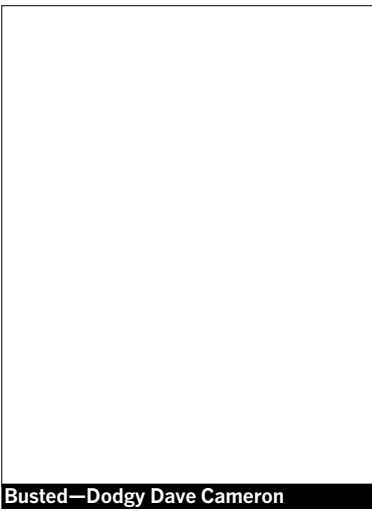
The ultra-wealthy, banks and corporations' hidden wealth amounts to 44 percent of world economic output. That is £3,300 for every person on earth.

One serious tax avoidance technique is transfer pricing, a dubious area where purchases and sales take place within the same company.

Items are sold from subsidiaries of the firm in high-tax countries to others in low-tax ones, so cutting the amount of tax paid. A US senate inquiry found one company selling toothbrushes to itself for £4,026 each.

Profits are declared in the countries with the lowest tax rates and debts are declared elsewhere.

Then there are inversions.



Busted—Dodgy Dave Cameron

Business hypocrites who won't punish themselves

DAVID CAMERON is hosting a conference to clamp down on tax avoidance next month. The IMF is against tax avoidance. Who isn't?

The same people who are top of the tree of a system based on scams and exploitation say they want to clamp down on tax avoidance.

Capitalism isn't simply a big casino. But it is the case that casinos' mafia owners fix the odds in their favour then say they are

against cheating.

In the wake of the financial crash in 2008 the big companies consolidated and reorganised the offshore financial industry to make it more efficient.

Drives against tax scams that focus on developing world dictators rather than the bosses at the heart of the system miss the point. Corruption is not bad business—it is how business is done.

Inversions mean that the parent company "lends" money to the big firm. The big firm then deducts the interest payments it makes to the parent company, reducing its taxable profits.

Private equity firm Bridgepoint Capital plays this game with Care UK, which has a significant stake in Britain's care homes and other health care services.

Bridgepoint harvested £90 million in interest payments from Care UK in 2013 while the firm posted operating losses of £9 million and slashed workers' pay in Doncaster by up to £7,000 a year.

Merger

Barack Obama used the Panama scandal to conveniently help him stop the Pfizer Astra Zeneca tax avoidance merger last week. The ongoing saga is about firms finding the cheapest place to declare tax. The fragility of the world economy means two things. Bosses are reluctant to invest back into production, but the stolen money that is profit is accumulating.

They put it offshore to avoid tax, but it is to some extent stuck there.

Economic growth in China has meant a number of things for the global economy. One result was billions of dollars going through Hong Kong into offshore markets.

For capitalism as a whole, the point of laundering money is to wash it with clean money. The money goes from banker to gangster, from hedge fund to arms dealer and back.

And the bankers, hedge funds and capitalists own far more than the petty criminals.

7%
rise in the number of companies registered in the seven largest tax havens, which include the British Virgin Islands and the crown dependency of Jersey between 2009 and 2014—to 672,500

The bankers, hedge funds and capitalists own far more than the petty criminals

The sellers of snake oil

A JUNIOR member of the Mossack Fonseca law firm sat in the Bahamas office in 2010. He had an email marked urgent saying that a delay in changing company registration was "ridiculous".

The Heritage Oil and Gas Ltd Company wanted to avoid paying £286 million in capital gains taxes to the Ugandan government. This would have been paid on the £1 billion sale of its 50 percent interest in Uganda's oil fields.

Mossack Fonseca changed its corporate home to the tiny island of Mauritius, where it could avoid Ugandan taxes.

And £286 million is considerably more than the government of Uganda's entire annual health budget.

Tony Buckingham set up Heritage Oil and he owns a third of it. Buckingham has given £100,000 to David Cameron's Tory party.

Heritage had sold its stake in the oil fields to Tullow Oil.

They ended up in the courts disputing who, if anyone, should pay some tax to the Ugandans.

It emerged that the British Foreign Office had leaked official documents to Tullow while lobbying on the company's behalf.

Tullow's boss, Aidan Heavey, donated more than £10,000 to the Tories.



Gold dots represent firms, green lines the connections between them, and red dots the "core" of 147 closely connected firms

147 multinationals really are all in this together

THOSE WHO control the wealth of the planet are interconnected economically to an incredible degree.

One study of 43,060 multinational companies revealed a core of 1,318 companies with interlocking ownerships.

Each of the 1,318 had ties to two or more other companies, and on average they were connected to 20, either through shareholders or directors. They represented 20 percent of global operating revenues.

But the 1,318 appeared to collectively own through their

shares the majority of the world's large blue chip and manufacturing firms—the "real" economy—representing a further 60 percent of global revenues.

At the core of the 1,318 companies were 147 even more tightly knit firms. The ownership of all 147 was held by other members of the 147.

That 147 controlled 40 percent of the total wealth in the network of the 43,060 companies.

Most were financial institutions. The top 20 included Barclays Bank, JPMorgan Chase & Co, and The Goldman Sachs Group.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties.

We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARNSELEY

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Thu 21 Apr, 6.30pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Tories divided—how do we finish them off?

Thu 21 Apr, 6pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Palestine—settler colonialism and popular resistance

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Fracking, climate change, capitalism and the fight to save the planet

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Horwich RMI,
Ramsbottom Rd,
BL6 5NH

BRADFORD

Was Ireland's election a political revolution?

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane
(opposite the ice rink),
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Class and the classroom—the Tories' assault on education

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
YHA Hotel,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

Bad medicine—how the pursuit of profit wrecks our healthcare

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Thu 28 Apr, 7.30pm,
CB2 Cafe,
5/7 Norfolk St,
CB1 2LD

CARDIFF

What would a socialist society look like?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

Is opposing Israel antisemitic?

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

The Panama Papers scandal—how the rich fleece us

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Capitalism vs the climate—how do we stop environmental disaster?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd,
C02 7ET

STAND UP TO RACISM EVENTS



The destroyed 'jungle' refugee camp in Calais

PICTURE: SARA TOMLINSON

TRADE UNIONISTS FOR CALAIS CONFERENCE

10am, Sun 24 April,
Student Central,
London WC1E 7HY



standuptoracism.org.uk

COVENTRY

The EU—a left case for exit

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DERBY

Greece, austerity and resistance

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next
to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

Corbyn and the crisis of reformism

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St,
DN1 3EH

DUDLEY

Prevent and racism in education

Wed 20 Apr, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
DY8 1EP

DUNDEE

The legacy of James Connolly

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Bombing and political power

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

EXETER

Why we should support junior doctors and teachers

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
Exeter Community Centre,
17 St Davids Hill, EX4 3RG

GLASGOW: NORTH

Are we heading for another economic slump?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Fred Paton Centre,
19 Carrington St (near
St George's Cross
underground),
G4 9AJ

GLASGOW: SOUTH

The politics of sport

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Govanhill Baths,
99 Calder St,
G42 7RA

HARLOW

The 1916 Easter Rising and Ireland's revolutionary tradition

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

James Connolly and Ireland's Easter Rising

Wed 20 Apr, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

HULL

The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Relax Coffee House,
Newland Avenue,
HU5 3BG

IPSWICH

The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 5 May, 7.15pm,
Labour Club,
33-35 Silent St,
IP1 1TF

LANCASTER

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

The 1916 Easter Rising and Ireland's revolutionary tradition

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

The history and politics of disability

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
The Caledonia,
22 Caledonia St,
L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

The Tories are crumbling—now is the time to beat them

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove
W10 5XL

LONDON: Brixton

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: CAMDEN

From council housing to Generation Rent—how can we solve the housing crisis?

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
Chadwick Building - G07,
University College London,
Gower St,
WC1E 6BT

LONDON: EALING

The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 High St,
Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Marxism and women's liberation

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Their media and ours

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

How do we stop the Tories destroying the welfare state?

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St,
N7 6QT

LONDON: KINGSTON

The politics of food production

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East,
KT1 2PT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

How do we combat alienation?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd
(near Greenwich main
line and DLR station),
SE10 8JA

LONDON: NEWHAM

Why does capitalism need borders?

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next
to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Fortress Europe—refugees, racism and the state

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure
Centre (Room 2),
Artichoke Place, SE5 8TS

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Marxism and women's liberation

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St, E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

The 1871 Paris Commune—when workers first took power

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Chorlton Library (side door),
Manchester Rd, M21 9PN

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Ireland's election—a political revolution?

Thu 28 Apr, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

Are we heading for another economic slump?

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Inspire,
747 Stockport Rd,
M19 3AR

MEDWAY

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre,
272 High St, ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

Black Power—the politics of the Black Panthers

Thu 28 Apr, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NORWICH

The politics of disability

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

What do Marxists say about religion?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
International
Community Centre,
61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

OXFORD

Are we heading for another economic slump?

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Restore,
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),
OX4 1YH

PLYMOUTH

Will there be another economic slump?

Thu 28 Apr, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

POOLE

Nationalisation and socialism

Mon 16 May, 7.30pm,
Globe Cafe,
88 High St,
BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Music, propaganda, subversion and the Nazis—resisting fascism then and now

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St,
PO5 4EY

ROTHERHAM

Fortress Europe—refugees, racism and the state

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Reform or revolution

Thu 21 Apr, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Syria—Imperialism, revolution and counter-revolution

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

ST ALBANS

The EU—a left case for exit

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm,
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near
St Albans City station),
AL1 3RD

SWANSEA

Will there be another economic slump?

Thu 21 Apr, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 28 Apr, 7.30pm,
Carriages, The Parade,
Wellington,
TF1 1PY

WAKEFIELD

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Thu 28 Apr, 7pm,
Lightwaves Centre,
Lower York St,
WF1 3LJ

WOLVERHAMPTON

Fighter's flight is a unique take on war veteran films

Jacques Audiard's powerful new film *Dheepan* sees Paris through the eyes of a fleeing Tamil fighter and his fake family of refugees, writes **Yuri Prasad**

THE STORY of the veterans of failed wars has been a Hollywood staple since Vietnam in the 1970s.

In the traditional storyline mentally scarred warriors return home to less than a heroes' welcome and then all hell breaks loose.

But award-winning director Jacques Audiard turns most of this on its head.

Dheepan (Antonythasan Jesuthasan) is a Tamil Tiger fighter who's escaped to Paris from Sri Lanka following defeat in the civil war.

To claim asylum, *Dheepan* uses a dead fighter's passport. He poses as part of a family with a woman and a young orphan girl who he's never met.

Together they move to a poor estate on the capital's outskirts where *Dheepan* gets a job as a caretaker.

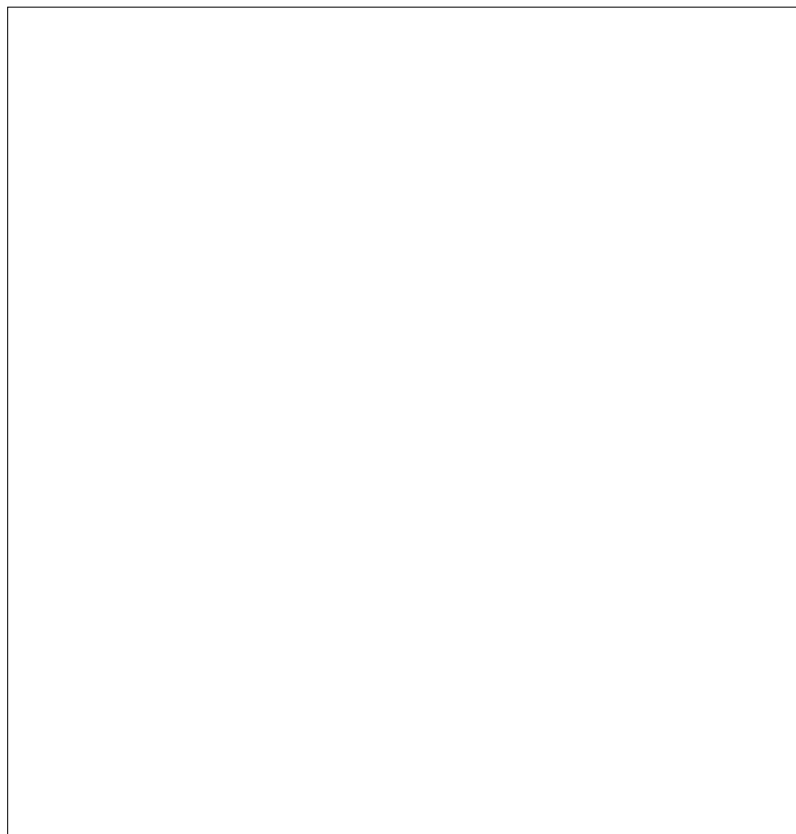
Migrants

The three Tamils speak no French. Much of the film is spent patiently observing the difficulties that millions of migrants face trying to survive, communicate and "fit in".

With the dialogue necessarily sparse, the acting and direction are really in the spotlight. Neither disappoints.

Dheepan's wife, Yalini (Kalieaswari Srinivasan) is a complex character. A young woman forced into an unwanted motherhood, with a job as a careworker and shy disposition, she is a fighter of a different sort to *Dheepan*.

Her tense expressions show the constant fear she battles. Her aim is to make it to England alone as soon



TAMIL REFUGEE Dheepan (Antonythasan Jesuthasan)

as her papers are approved.

Nine year old Illayaal (Claudine Vinasithamby) is eager and quick to learn. She picks up French well enough to teach some to her "parents".

But at school she is isolated and at home she is at best an afterthought to

Yalini. She knows the family affection she craves will never come.

Some of the most intense scenes focus on how the fake couple try to make themselves real—and how circumstances continually push them apart.

Despite occasional warmth and

humanity from some fellow tenants, the three quickly find that they have merely escaped from one war zone to another.

Drug gangs control the area, with lookouts posted upon the roof tops and heavily armed young "soldiers" patrolling the streets and corridors.

Gun fights and killings are commonplace while the state is completely disinterested.

Prison

The cinematography and attention to detail will remind viewers of Audiard's earlier films, especially the prison drama *A Prophet*.

He humanises even the most violent gang members while maintaining a climate of tension.

This will doubtless be one of the reasons why his film won the Palme d'Or award at the Cannes film festival last year.

By the end of the film, *Dheepan* cannot help but see echoes of the Sri Lankan civil war everywhere.

The ghosts of his past increasingly dominate him.

It is here that Audiard's masterpiece starts to unravel.

There are simply too many plotlines crisscrossing. This puts too much pressure for the film to end as brilliantly as it has started with a neat wrap-up.

But for a glimpse into the complex lives of refugees in Europe, *Dheepan* is as powerful as it comes.

Dheepan

Directed by Jacques Audiard
Out now

Epic performance brings revolutionary back to life

THEATRE

THE NON STOP CONNOLLY SHOW

by Margaretta D'Arcy and John Arden
Finborough Theatre,
London SW10 9ED
17, 18, 23, 24 April
finboroughtheatre.co.uk

THE NON Stop Connolly Show is an important 1975 play about the life of the Irish revolutionary James Connolly.

It tells the story of Connolly's life from the Edinburgh slums to his murder by a British firing squad.

The epic-length play by Margaretta D'Arcy

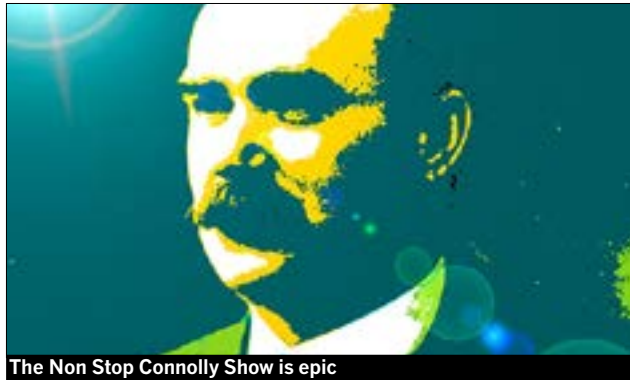
and John Arden is being revived this April.

At nearly ten hours long, the idea is that the audience can drop in and out throughout the performance.

Director Shane Dempsey spoke to *Socialist Worker* about the play.

He said, "The production is totally unique. There is nothing like it in the dramatic canon of Ireland and it's incredibly imaginative as well as ambitious."

"On top of the momentous events of the Easter Rising and 1913 lockout the play beautifully captures Connolly's early years



The Non Stop Connolly Show is epic

in Edinburgh. He saw incredible hardship and toil there.

"It adds a unique view on Connolly, the man as opposed to the myth. Even though I was familiar

with Connolly much of the conversations did not seem to give as much weight to his socialist views.

"We also made a decision to have an equal

ratio of men to women. So in our production many of the main characters are played by women.

"The play gives voice to the complexity of the arguments between Republican leader Patrick Pearse and Connolly.

"And it also looks at the wider events that were taking place in Europe with the First World War.

"It really gives an audience an insight into these momentous events through energised storytelling and song.

"And it will be brilliant to see how the play translates to an audience in 2016."

Simon Basketter

FILM

THE LAST MAN ON THE MOON

Directed by Mark Craig.
In cinemas now
thelastmanonthemoon.com

SINCE APOLLO 18 spacecraft commander Gene Cernan left the Moon after tracing his daughter's initials in the lunar dust in 1972, no-one has been back. This acclaimed documentary tells his story.

The space footage is exhilarating, but it takes a long time to get to it. The film is more about the intense lives of astronauts and the effects it had on their families.

At times it is moving



Gene Cernan—the last man on the moon

or insightful. But while its narrow focus loses some of the big picture, it also falls short of really scrutinising the militaristic US space programme.

Today Cernan works to inspire young people about space. He seems to think about "humanity" more than the US state and the future more than the past. It's a shame the film doesn't too.

Dave Sewell

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 A Rebel's Guide to James Connolly**
Sean Mitchell
- 2 The EU—a case for left exit**
Joseph Choonara
- 3 1916—Ireland's Revolutionary Tradition**
Kieran Allen
- 4 Marxism and Women's Liberation**
Judith Orr
- 5 Angry White People—Coming Face-to-Face with the British Far Right**
Hsiao-Hung Pai

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

SEVEN months ago Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour Party leader.

In some respects the effect has been transformational.

Previous Labour leaders backed nuclear weapons. Corbyn opposes them.

Instead of a condemning workers' struggle, some of the party's leaders now say they support strikes.

Former leader Ed Miliband said that the last Labour government had been too soft on immigration and further controls were needed.

Corbyn went to Calais to show support for refugees.

Previous Labour leaders shunned the anti-war movement. Corbyn defends it and drove the majority of Labour MPs to oppose the bombing of Syria.

Nobody should underestimate the importance of having an opposition leader who actually opposes what the Tories are doing.

Corbyn's words give confidence to activists to speak out and to organise. He has made it easier to talk about socialist solutions.

But words are not enough. The Tories are on the rocks. It is less than a year since the general election and their economic plans are in ruins.

They are bitterly divided, the European Union (EU) referendum is an open wound and their leader is perhaps fatally damaged.

They have been forced into retreats, but they won't just back off from their class project of making workers pay for the crisis.

It is nearly 1,500 days to the next general election. Imagine the damage the Tories could do if they remain in office, particularly if there is no serious resistance.

So the fightback has to take place now, and it has to mean action. Corbyn has denounced the Tories over the steel crisis.

Upset

But he has not called on people to demonstrate—probably because he does not want to upset the pessimistic and timid steel unions.

A Corbyn-backed call for protests in Port Talbot and Scunthorpe could have put tens of thousands on the streets.

It could have given confidence to steel workers to launch militant resistance.

Corbyn and shadow chancellor John McDonnell have called for some sort of temporary steel nationalisation.

But their vision is to nurture the plants back to health and speedily hand them back to private firms—with all that means for jobs and pay.

Labour will not come out in support of the junior doctors' strikes.

John McDonnell does as an



WHO DO WE VOTE FOR NOW?

Who should we vote for in the 5 May elections? We have to look at the wider context of politics and resistance, argues Charlie Kimber



John McDonnell

individual, and attended picket lines. But Labour's official position is just to criticise the Tories, regret the events that have led to strikes and demand proper negotiations.

Constrained by the opposition of Labour MPs, and anxious to preserve "party unity", Corbyn makes concessions to the right.

Corbyn and McDonnell did not call for people to take to the streets last weekend when Cameron faced calls to resign.



The fightback has to take place now, and it has to mean action

Labour-led councils continue meekly to impose huge cuts. Services such as children's centres, care for the elderly, libraries and domestic violence units have been slashed—700,000 local government jobs have gone since 2010.

In many cases these cuts have been put through by Labour councils.

They may do it unwillingly, but they do it.

This year alone Labour councils will have slashed more jobs

than would be lost by the total closure of Tata steel.

Launching Labour's English local government campaign last week, Corbyn said, "Even in the toughest of times it is Labour councils that are making better choices."

But where's the evidence? In Lambeth it's not a vicious Tory council that is closing the libraries, leading to strikes and an occupation. It's a council where 58 of the 62 councillors are Labour. That's the experience nearly everywhere.

ALL OF this poses a complicated situation for socialists who want to go further than Labour.

Our main task is to build resistance alongside Corbyn supporters, whether they're in the Labour Party or not.

At the same time we have to debate how Labour won't be able to challenge austerity, racism and capitalism effectively.

The experience of Syriza in Greece, or president Hollande in France, points to the pressures and obstacles a Labour government would face.

Electoral opposition has to be approached carefully. Elections are never the main form of opposition, and this is particularly so at the moment.

The left alternative to Labour is small. The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), which the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) supports, will be running some 300 candidates in the councils.

Failure

It wants to highlight the need to fight the Tory cuts and Labour's failure to do so.

Care has been taken to avoid standing against any councillor who is pledged to vote against all cuts or supports Corbyn.

Of course, deciding not to stand against a candidate doesn't mean being responsible for what they do in the future.

Where there is not a TUSC candidate in English local elections, the SWP thinks there should be a vote for Labour.

What do we say in London? Labour's mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan has been keen to distance himself from Corbyn.

Earlier this year he told the right wing Spectator magazine that Tory Boris Johnson has been a "great salesman for our city" and that, "I welcome the fact that we have got 140-plus billionaires in London. That's a good thing."

"I welcome the fact that there are more than 400,000 millionaires. That's a good thing."

Khan has repeatedly said, "I will be the most pro-business mayor London has ever had".

But regardless of Khan's views, many workers will see that a defeat for Labour in London would be a shattering blow for Corbyn.

Labour should win—the party won 45 of London's

73 seats in last year's general election. The media will present May's elections as a referendum on Corbyn's leadership.

We fully support all those who want to fight back against austerity—including cuts imposed by Labour councils.

But we also want to be part of the process of supporting Corbyn while arguing for a socialist alternative to Labour.

So Socialist Worker will stand with the Corbyn supporters and call for a vote for Sadiq Khan. We do so while pointing out his many faults, without illusions, and while making demands on him.

London's mayor controls a £16 billion budget and housing, planning and transport policy.

Khan should use this to slash public transport fares and block posh housing developments with prices beyond workers' wildest dreams.

He should halt housing schemes based on the demolition of council estates and speak out against councils' cuts.

He should encourage a mass programme of council house building.

Denounce

He should make London a city that officially welcomes refugees and campaigns for letting them in.

He should denounce police racism, the Prevent strategy and Islamophobia.

We will build pressure on him to do all this and more.

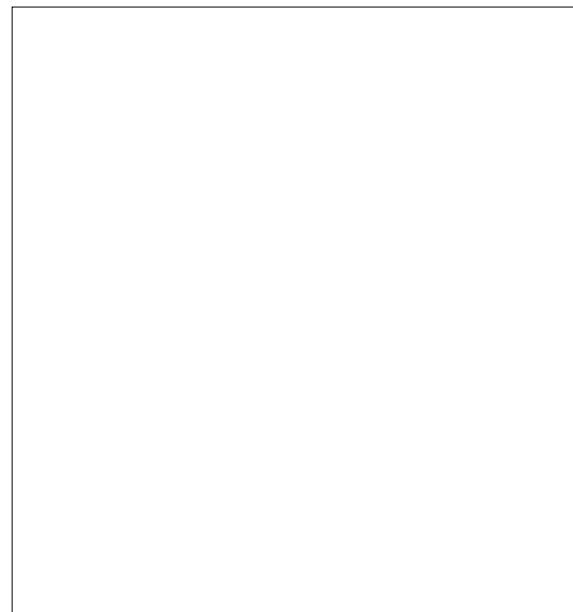
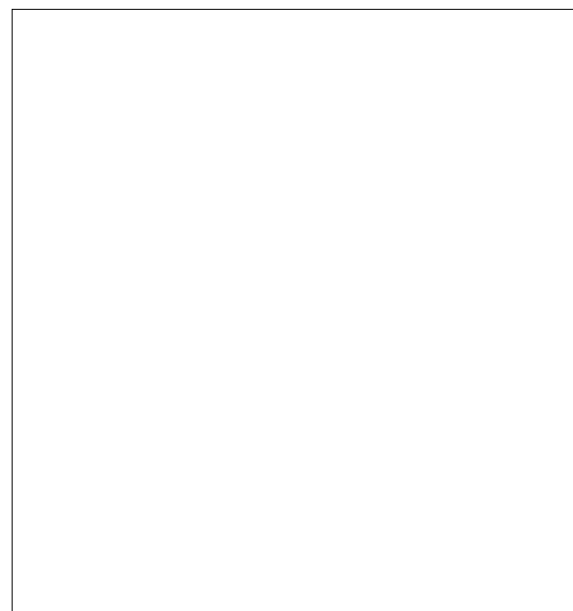
ARE THE Greens an alternative? Certainly some of their policies are to the left of Labour. But whether it's internationally or at local council level, Greens have repeatedly acted in exactly the same way as Labour.

They have implemented cuts and attacked workers.

Nor have they shown any intent to help in the building of a class struggle left based on workers' organisations. Electorally, they show no sign of united work with others on the left.

The Greens stood against both Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell at the last general election.

Some Green leaders ran away when the Stop the War Coalition came under media assault during the run-up to the vote on bombing Syria.



Labour Mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan (top) is no supporter of Jeremy Corbyn (above)

The Greens are not an alternative to Labour.

Among all the electoral considerations, we should insist that the crucial battle is not who is sitting in London's City Hall or the council offices.

It is whether there is a sit-in at Tata, whether the junior doctors win, whether the teachers strike and win.

It is whether the movement in solidarity with refugees develops, whether the movement against climate change continues to rise.

And it is whether there is a strong socialist core at the heart of all of these battles.

The last month in France shows how quickly events can change, and new opportunities for struggle appear.

We have to push for that here as well.

WHAT ABOUT WALES?

●The polls for the Welsh Assembly put Labour on around 35 percent. The Tories and Plaid Cymru are both on just over 20 percent

●Ukip is on 15 percent

●TUSC is putting forward candidates in three regional lists

●Labour will win many of the constituency seats

●This means that it cannot gain extra on many regional lists

●Ukip is set to harvest several assembly seats unless they are taken by another "non-mainstream" party

Green MP Caroline Lucas

Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

Divided left means there's no easy choice in Scotland

Calling for a Labour vote in Scotland is impossible. But socialists can't vote for the SNP either

IN SCOTLAND the "Corbyn effect" has been far more limited than in England.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) is set for a crushing win in the Scottish parliamentary elections.

Many of those who might have been attracted to Labour under Corbyn were scooped up by the SNP after the independence referendum in 2014. Over the last 18 months SNP membership has risen by 90,000 to more than 115,000.

Labour has not recovered from its fatal embrace of the Tories during the independence referendum.

Jiggling about with the Union Jack alongside Cameron convinced a generation of activists that Labour was not their party. Corbyn remains against independence.

Also blunting any sustained move left is Labour's Scottish leader Kezia Dugdale. She is certainly not so right wing as Jim Murphy who she replaced. But she is not a Corbyn-supporter.

The Scottish Labour conference voted overwhelmingly to ditch Trident, but voters know that the party's leader in Scotland opposes the policy.

Riding

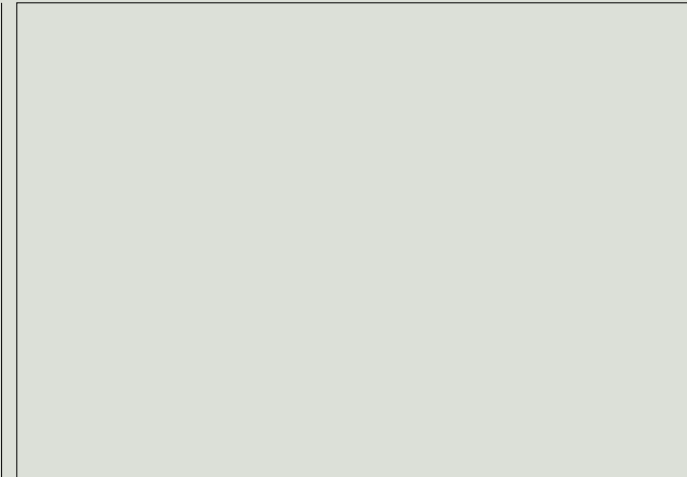
It is impossible to call for a vote for Labour. But the SNP also doesn't deserve support.

The Scottish government that it controls has delivered a succession of austerity budgets and implemented horrendous cuts where it runs councils.

The party has reneged on its pledge to abolish the council tax and replace it with a fairer alternative.

Its opposition to fracking is half-hearted. The party refuses to support higher tax rates for the rich.

It is a situation which favours a socialist challenge. We can't hold out for a second independence referendum before building an alternative. But regrettably there is not a united electoral group to the



SNP LEADER Nicola Sturgeon

BACK STORY

Support for Labour in Scotland collapsed after the independence referendum in 2014

●Tens of thousands of people saw independence as a chance for social change

●The campaigns for a Yes vote saw mass public meetings and big demonstrations

●Labour's support for No was seen as a big betrayal

left of Labour and the SNP.

TUSC is running in six constituency seats. We will campaign for as big as possible a vote for it.

But the best chance of election is on the regional top-up lists. The Rise radical alliance is running in all of these, but so is Solidarity, the movement associated with socialist Tommy Sheridan.

Such fragmented forces are much less likely to make a breakthrough. Each will blame the other. Both should



Just as elsewhere in Britain, the key in Scotland is struggle

look to their own actions.

For this reason Socialist Worker calls for a TUSC vote where it is standing. We call for a left, socialist vote in the remaining constituencies and on the lists. It is important to vote Rise or Solidarity to demonstrate the left opposition to Labour and the SNP. After the election it will be necessary to assess how to avoid this tragically divided situation in future elections.

But just as elsewhere in Britain, the key is struggle.

Audacious

A determined strike, plans to escalate and an audacious political campaign by further education lecturers forced the SNP to swiftly concede to agree to pay rises and equal pay rates across the country.

Grangemouth dock workers' launched a 14-day strike backed by unofficial action from tanker drivers which beat an attack on conditions.

A big battle has begun against the council cuts in Glasgow with strikes by janitors and CCTV operators. There is potential for thousands more workers to join them.

The Stand Up to Racism demonstration on 19 March in Glasgow was bigger than last year. It was part of a strong movement against the scapegoating of refugees and Islamophobia.

There are growing numbers of anti-fracking campaigns across Scotland. The most important resistance will come from outside Holyrood and the council chambers.

Private-built schools may fall down

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

A PRIVATE finance initiative (PFI) consortium faces financial penalties after the shock closure of 17 Edinburgh schools last Friday.

The schools, with some 9,000 pupils, were shut after the discovery of serious structural defects at one school undergoing repairs and fears over others built by the same consortium.

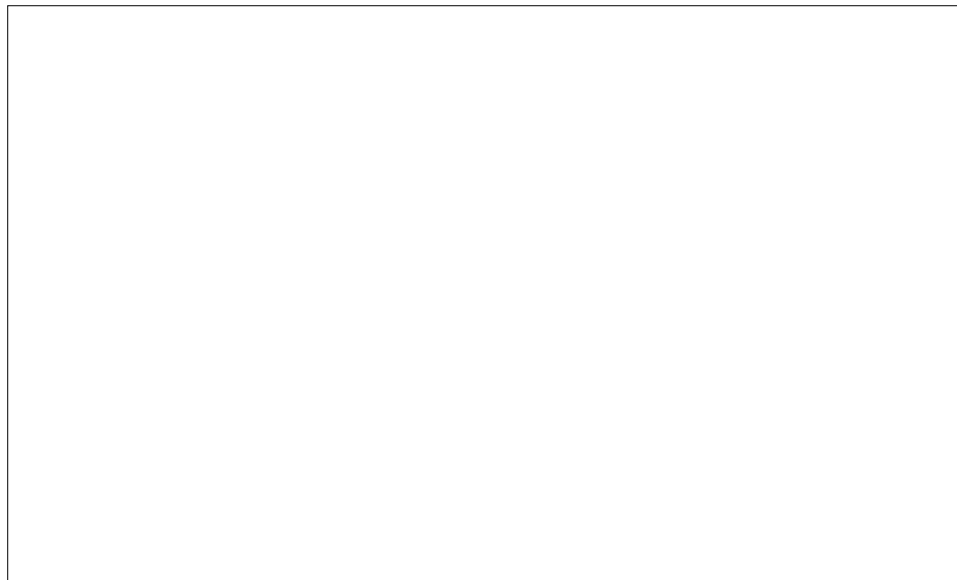
The penalties could run into millions of pounds.

Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP), which built and manages the schools, failed to give guarantees to Edinburgh council officials that the buildings were safe.

Scathing

This prompted their immediate closure. Local authorities across Scotland are now scrambling to make safety checks on buildings constructed under similar deals.

Neil Baxter, secretary of the architects' professional body RIAS, was scathing about the



DAMAGE AT Oxgangs Primary raised safety concerns about PPP-constructed schools

reality of PFI and public private partnership (PPP) contracts.

He said, "The fundamental flaw in much PPP procurement is that there's always been too much focus on the private profit of the building company and a bias in favour of their making money, rather

than an extremely high-quality job."

Baxter added, "There are shocking instances elsewhere where PPP has created very bad buildings which are then on a long-term maintenance contract at a premium price."

The affair underlines the utter bankruptcy of the idea

that private firms should be involved in public infrastructure projects. The mainstream parties all support privately financing public projects.

Politicians seem to have been slow to raise the schools issue for fear of opening themselves up to attack.

Debt for PFI and PPP

deals in Scotland is currently running at £22 billion—and won't be paid off for nearly 30 years. The schemes were started by the Tories, accelerated by New Labour and rebranded by the Scottish National Party (SNP).

Edinburgh City Unison union called them "wasteful and grossly expensive ways of providing public services".

Profit

It added, "They reap massive profits for the private sector with little risk to them and are much more expensive than direct building."

The SNP often likes to claim that it is not as bad as Westminster. But its version of PFI—Non-Profit Distributed (NPD) contracts—is not much better.

Its Scottish Futures Trust development body boasts about "one of the biggest PPP programmes in Europe".

Unison said, "The current government's NPD scheme means that Scottish councils, colleges, the NHS, government departments and Transport Scotland are

committed to paying a further £6 billion for 20 Scottish Futures Trust privately financed and managed projects."

The SNP obsession with big business investment has seen it look to unusual sources.

It has courted the oil-rich Qatari regime which it sees as having a "great potential to help Scotland meet its aims and purpose".

A recent £10 billion deal with Chinese investors should provide a reality check for fans of SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon. She signed the deal with a firm mired in a corruption scandal.

Many had asked why her government kept quiet about the agreement. It later emerged that billionaire homophobe and major SNP donor Brian Souter brokered it.

Souter founded and is chair of Stagecoach, which was found guilty of dodging some £11 million in tax just weeks before the deal was signed. Of course, this had nothing to do with the SNP's silence.

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Solidarity and joint action can help junior doctors win

Junior doctors and their supporters talk to Tomáš Tengely-Evans about how joint action with teachers and solidarity from trade unionists and supporters can create a crisis for the Tories

THE JUNIOR doctors' walkout last Wednesday and Thursday showed their determination to resist the Tory imposition of a dangerous new contract.

The British Medical Association's (BMA) action was solid—and an important building block to more hard-hitting action on 26 and 27 April.

Emily, a junior doctor at the Royal London Hospital, said, "We're keeping the momentum up. We're willing to do whatever it takes to stop this."

Pickets were lively and confident as solidarity from trade unionists came pouring in. People have been getting behind the dispute to express anger at the Tories' attacks on the NHS and austerity.

The NUT teachers' union is balloting its members against Tory plans to force all schools to become academies. This has boosted junior doctors—and groups of teachers joined junior doctors' picket lines.

Assault

Joe, an NUT union rep, joined the Lewisham hospital picket lines. He said, "The junior doctors' stand is courageous and inspiring."

"As a teacher facing the government's ideological assault on education it's important to show solidarity with their fight."

This pattern of solidarity was repeated across England and showed what a united fightback might look like.

Alex May, who joined the Arrow Park Hospital picket line in Merseyside, told Socialist Worker, "The mood on the picket lines was upbeat especially after the NUT teachers' conference decision."

The Tories are divided and David



JUNIOR DOCTORS on the picket line at Homerton hospital

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Cameron is reeling from the Panama tax dodging scandal—union leaders must not let this opportunity pass.

While rank and file members are building solidarity, the TUC and most union leaders have only given rhetorical support. Phil Graham, an Aslef train drivers' union rep, said, "I know the BMA aren't affiliated to the TUC, but the TUC should still be giving real support. TUC leader Frances O'Grady should be on the picket line."

The TUC should throw its weight behind the junior doctors and Unison and the other health unions should immediately ballot their members.

Trade unionists now need to build momentum and deepen solidarity ahead of the BMA's two ten-hour "full walkouts" on 26 and 27 April.

This will mean consultants instead of junior doctors providing emergency cover.

There are plans for a joint teachers'

and junior doctors' march and rally in London at the end of the next walkout—reps in schools, hospitals and other workers need to get delegations along to it.

The BMA had not announced further action as Socialist Worker went to press. But deepening solidarity will give confidence to junior doctors, put pressure on the BMA to call more action and help the junior doctors win.

Unite the fightback

OVER 20 people came to the first meeting of a Tower Hamlets junior doctors' support group in east London last Thursday.

A further 50 joined a similar meeting in Manchester that night.

Junior doctor Emily told the Tower Hamlets meeting, "We've got different things planned to build momentum and we want junior doctors to engage with all the different groups here."

Alex Kenny from the NUT teachers' union said, "Teachers and junior doctors are getting together to organise joint 'Meet the doctors and teachers' events."

He added, "Perhaps that's something we could do here."

Union

Sam, a Unison union member at the Royal London, said, "There's been no direction from Unison, but we're organising at the grass roots."

Activists agreed to get junior doctors into union meetings ahead of the full walkout, do a joint stall with teachers and discussed having 15-minute lunchtime protests.

In Manchester activists discussed giving out postcards to patients who've had operations cancelled that blamed Tory Jeremy Hunt and promoted a union-backed protest on 26 April.

They split into hospital groups and agreed to contact reps for their local hospitals.

For more coverage online go to:
<http://bit.ly/23ovIKB>
<http://bit.ly/20uv74M>
<http://bit.ly/1VhXZ0e>

Trade unionists organise protests to support strikes

AROUND 400 junior doctors and their supporters marched from the Manchester Royal Infirmary into the town centre last Wednesday.

Megan told Socialist Worker, "We have more people on our picket lines and NUT members came for the first time."

"The BMA reps built the demonstration through texts, phone calls and social media."

Up to 200 junior doctors and trade unionists from across east London rallied outside Hackney Town Hall at lunchtime

the following day.

At Whipps Cross Hospital in north east London around 100 junior doctors and their supporters marched into Walthamstow on Wednesday and some 50 joined the picket line on Thursday.

In Brighton 150 marched on the first day of the strike with flags and banners from other unions, a lively contingent of NHS students, as well as a big contingent from Sussex Defend the NHS.

These marches were successful because of a combination of initiative



NUT union members join the doctors' picket line in Nottingham

from other workers and a call by the BMA.

Some 300 people marched from Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals to the Department of Health.

On the first day of the strike up to 50 workers and students from the School of Oriental and African Studies walked out in solidarity for two hours.

Activists need to build junior doctors' support groups that can get strikers into union meetings, call joint events and coordinate solidarity during strikes.

PICTURE: RICHARD BUCKWELL

IN BRIEF

Work up an appetite for fast food action

FAST FOOD workers and their supporters were set to take action on Thursday of this week in solidarity with striking workers in the US.

A march and rally were set to take place in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, with protests also planned in Glasgow, Scarborough and Cambridge.

Over 70 people attended a planning meeting in Glasgow on Friday of last week.

Co-op drivers bring dispute to a halt

CO-OP DRIVERS have voted to accept bosses' proposals and end their dispute. The workers' union Unite recommended acceptance.

The drivers had voted for strikes after the Co-op outsourced 87 Coventry drivers to haulage firm Eddie Stobart.

Unite warned this could lead to further outsourcing and attacks on conditions. It now says bosses have given "assurances that provide confidence".

Ambulance workers sound the alarm

THE GMB union is balloting outsourced health workers in Sussex for industrial action over working conditions.

They work for Thames Ambulance, one of the firms that took over the service on 1 April.

It only provides one base station, so most workers will have longer travel periods and shift changes.

'The rich aren't paying their share'

CAMPAIGNERS protested in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, last Saturday about tax avoidance and the Tories.

They included activists fighting cuts to the Women's Aid service for survivors of domestic violence.

People made the link between tax avoidance and cuts. Social worker Angie, said, "The rich aren't paying their fair share and vulnerable people suffer as a result."

Jen Dunstan-Furniss

Lincoln firefighters warn against cuts

FIREFIGHTERS IN Lincoln protested last Saturday against bosses' proposal of leaving a fire station with no crew on shift at night.

Response times between 6.30pm and 7.30am would rise by at least two minutes.

FBU union member Dan Taylor said that time "is the difference between taking some action or just standing back and watching it burn".

Bosses also propose to remove a high rise ladder in Skegness and scrap two rescue vehicles in Grantham.

●Sign the petition at bit.ly/1QT5qH2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Watch out for strikers in council's pay fight

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

COUNCIL OFFICIALS and bosses at a Glasgow City Council-run company are starting to feel the pinch from strikes by CCTV workers.

The workers were set to walk out again this weekend in their fight for equal pay.

They are demanding the same pay for shift work as council employees. Bosses at Community Safety Glasgow (CSG) have so far refused to pay the workers up to £7,500 a year more so that they get the same amount as their colleagues.

CCTV workers' third 84-hour walkout coincides with two major football matches in Glasgow this weekend. This includes the first Old Firm derby between Celtic and Rangers for years.

Insiders believe this will leave police without the resources to provide extra officers to scab in mobile CCTV units as they have during previous strikes.

Bosses have been desperate to resolve the dispute. But Glasgow Unison union branch officer Jim

Main said, "Workers rejected management's 'take it or leave it' offer last week with short shrift.

"It has only hardened attitudes that the council is not taking the justice of their claim seriously. The strikes are ongoing as far as we're concerned."

CCTV strikers have been buoyed by solidarity from other trade unionists in

Glasgow. Young fast food workers in the Bfawu union are the latest to offer them support.

Council-run firms such as CSG or Cordia are being used as a benchmark to drive down conditions. Cordia employs school janitors who could strike again after the Easter holidays.

Both strikes are important to all council workers. Recent budget cuts by the Labour-run administration will mean attacks across the board.

But unions are moving towards strikes—the best response.

A consultative ballot of 4,000 Unison members ends next week.

Workers should vote yes for a council-wide joint union fightback.

●Send messages of solidarity to enquiries@glasgowcityunison.co.uk



CCTV workers picketing last week

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

ANTI-FASCISM



Against the EDL in High Wycombe

PICTURE: JULIE SIMMONS

by JULIE SIMMONS

OVER 250 people joined an anti-fascist protest last Saturday against the English Defence League's (EDL) attempt to stir up racism in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

In contrast the EDL mobilised a pathetic 75 for its national demonstration.

The counter-protest was called by Unite Against Fascism and High Wycombe Community Advocates.

It was supported by branches of the PCS, Unison, CWU and NUT unions and

the trades council.

Other groups such as Chiltern Peace and Justice group and Amnesty International High Wycombe gave support and district councillors joined it.

The police and local press had run a scare campaign to deter people from coming out. Police reportedly threatened to use the Prevent strategy against Muslims who campaign against the EDL.

Demonstrators occupied the town centre and marched to disrupt the EDL rally with chants of "Nazi scum off our streets".

ANTI-RACISM

Farage not welcome in Glasgow

PROTESTERS IN Glasgow disrupted a meeting with racist Ukip leader Nigel Farage on Friday of last week.

Farage was at a pro-Brexit rally at Glasgow University with Tory MP Liam Fox.

Activists from the Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees, Stand Up to Ukip and others joined the protest.

Ukip faced yet another scandal as it launched its election campaign in Scotland.

Pictures emerged of former candidate Jack Neill with a blacked up face. He said it was "a joke" and "something that one does in their spare time".

Meanwhile a far right MEP has said she will join the Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD) group, led by Ukip leader Nigel Farage.

Beatrix von Storch from the far right Alternative for Germany party has called for shooting refugees.

She said the EFDD was a "suitable political environment" for her.

●standuptoukip.org

INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY



AROUND 300 people joined an International Roma Day march in Glasgow last Saturday to celebrate Roma culture and highlight discrimination

PICTURE: STEPHEN MCBROOM

SCHOOLS

Tory U-turn on hated tests

by SADIE ROBINSON

TEACHERS, PARENTS and campaigners are celebrating after the Tories were forced into an embarrassing U-turn on baseline testing.

The government wanted children as young as four to sit the tests.

It hoped to use results to attack teachers and schools for failing to make sufficient "progress". It has now abandoned the plan.

Jess Edwards is a primary school teacher in London and a member of the NUT union's executive. She told Socialist Worker, "The retreat is hugely significant.

"Stopping baseline can undermine the whole basis of testing in primary schools."

Parents, teachers and campaigners met in Cambridge to celebrate the withdrawal of baseline tests last Sunday. They discussed how to build the campaign to get rid of Sats tests.

Parent Frank Brogan said,

"It's a brilliant victory. We've got rid of one test—I hope it's another nail in the Tory coffin."

Parent Anje Neutel added, "For me it is one aspect around the wider issue of getting business and competition into education."

Teacher Sara Tomlinson told Socialist Worker, "We need to keep the pressure up and make SATs and the phonics test our next target. These are all part of a plan to marketise our education system."

The NUT is preparing to ballot teachers for strikes over the impact of forced academisation and funding cuts (see page 7).

Jess said, "Academies tend to involve more standardised testing. They make it easier for business to take hold of schools."

"We need to link the fight against testing to the battle against forced academisation."

●Go to betterwithoutbaseline.org.uk for more details

New ballot to back Simon

TEACHERS at Small Heath School in Birmingham are preparing to hold an indicative ballot for strikes over oppressive management.

This follows a series of strikes to defend victimised NUT union rep Simon O'Hara and previous walkouts to stop the school becoming an academy.

The union called off the strikes to defend Simon after bosses said they would lift his suspension. They then promptly suspended him again.

Bosses are targeting Simon because he helped lead successful strikes against academisation. They want to weaken the union so that they can push through attacks.

It is a matter of national importance that a union



Simon O'Hara

activist has been suspended for carrying out NUT policy and opposing academies.

The battle is not just about one rep. It is about the right of workers to organise and union rights. NUT members at Small Heath have repeatedly shown they are willing to strike to defend their conditions and their rep.

They have won widespread support—and if they vote for more action, they can push bosses back.

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

WALES

Museum bosses hit by fresh strike wave

by NICK CLARK

WORKERS AT National Museums Wales began a wave of strikes last weekend against bosses' plans to slash weekend premium pay rates.

Members of the PCS union at the Big Pit National Coal Mining Museum and St Fagans Natural History Museum in South Wales walked out on Saturday and Sunday.

They were the first days of action in a programme of rolling strikes set to hit the national museum's seven sites across Wales, culminating on 1 May.

Museum worker and PCS branch secretary Geraint Parfitt said, "We've got people working 47 Saturdays in the year."

Family

"They're not just the same as any other day—I want to spend time with my family."

The PCS members have been fighting for two years against bosses' plans.

Last weekend was the second of four planned weekend strikes, followed by a rally on 30 April just ahead of the Welsh Assembly elections in May.

Geraint told Socialist Worker, "It's the first time in Wales there's ever been a strike running into the assembly elections like this."



PCS UNION members march past the National Museum in Cardiff last month

He said solidarity had been crucial for keeping the action going.

"We started a strike fund and unions locally have donated to that," he said.

"The aim is to take as much



PCS branch secretary Geraint Parfitt

industrial action as we can while minimising the hardship it creates for our members."

Losing weekend allowances would mean a pay cut of 12 to 15 percent for some of the museum's lowest paid workers.

PCS says its members could

end up using food banks.

Geraint added, "They say there's no money—but they've just started voluntary redundancies for managers capped at £96,000."

● Sign the petition at bit.ly/1SZgx23

Donate to the strike fund:
Bank: Unity Trust Bank,
Account name: PCS
Amgueddfa Cymru 107006
Branch, Account number:
20331827, Sort code: 08-60-01

REFUGEE SOLIDARITY

Trade unionists for Calais

TRADE UNIONISTS in Britain have repeatedly organised solidarity for refugees in Calais.

Over 100 trade unionists from unions including the NUT, Unison, PCS, RMT and UCU joined recent delegations to Calais.

Workers have collected money and other essentials.

They are also demanding that the Tory government lets refugees into Britain.

Another convoy to Calais is planned for 11 June.

Stand Up to Racism has organised a Trade Unionists for Calais summit in central London to discuss how to involve more trade unionists in the campaign.



A Calais volunteer

● Trade Unionists for Calais Summit
Sunday 24 April, 11am-5pm,
Student Central, Malet St,
London WC1E 7HY.
Go to standuptoracism.org.uk
to register

CONSTRUCTION

Workers demand one rate

by SIMON BASKETTER

ENGINEERING construction workers protested against the undercutting of wages at three power station construction sites last week.

Building bosses are exploiting workers at rates of pay as low as £7 per hour rather than paying £16.64 per hour under a national agreement.

The protests were at energy from waste construction sites in Port Talbot, Dunbar and Rotherham.

The criticism was aimed at Danish contractors Babcock and Wilcox Volund and British firm Interserve.

Workers are demanding that all workers,

including migrants, are paid the same rate.

One Unite union member in Rotherham told Socialist Worker, "It is about having the right terms and conditions."

"We demonstrated on our site and they came round to accepting the national agreement."

GMB, Unite and Ucat union members took part in the rallies against a lack of jobs for local workers and the exploitation of migrant workers. Unity between migrants and workers from nearby sites is key to beating the bosses.

Importantly sticking to the national agreement should mean giving migrant workers a pay rise—not kicking them out of the job.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Hundreds protest against Poland's abortion ban plan

by SALLY CAMPBELL

AROUND 300 people rallied outside the Polish Embassy in London last Saturday against a proposed law that would ban abortion.

They had gathered in solidarity with thousands marching in the Polish capital Warsaw and other cities.

Abortion in Poland has been illegal since 1993, except in cases of rape or a lethal threat to the health of the woman or foetus.

Now the Catholic church has drafted changes that would outlaw it even these cases.

The protest was organised by Polish activists #Reclaimchoice. They were joined by Abortion

Rights activists from Britain who had earlier held a symbolic protest at a local police station.

They had "handed themselves in" in solidarity with the two women in Northern Ireland who have been prosecuted for procuring abortions.

Protesters hung hundreds of wire coat hangers from the embassy's railings to say no return to dangerous backstreet abortions.

■ Bigots in the Strathclyde University "Society for the Protection of Unborn Children" are claiming their free speech is being stopped because they were denied funding. The students' union is right to stand for women's liberation and not fund the bigots.

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS



Union members march through Sheffield

Marchers slam hypocrisy of 'Northern Powerhouse'

AROUND 500 people marched through Sheffield last Saturday attacking the Tories' "Northern Powerhouse" sham.

The PCS union called the demonstration after over 200 job losses were announced at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Bis).

Tom Bishell, PCS branch secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions in Sheffield, told Socialist Worker, "After steel went under there was a decision to bring government jobs here. Now there seems to have been a decision

to take them out."

College student Meg Kay was outraged at David Cameron's tax dodging revelations. "It's not impossible to beat the Tories—if it was I wouldn't be here," she said.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka told the rally, "If we all take industrial action together—imagine what that could do to David Cameron."

Labour shadow chancellor John McDonnell encouraged workers to turn Sheffield into a "Northern Powerhouse of resistance".
Dave Sewell

STEEL CRISIS

New steel bosses take over

TATA STEEL agreed to sell its long products division, including the large Scunthorpe works, to Greybull Capital on Monday.

The rest of Tata's assets in Britain, including the Port Talbot plant in South Wales, are still up for sale.

The new bosses say they will make the plant profitable

again. This starts with attacking workers.

They have been asked to accept 3 percent pay cut and a worse pension.

To workers fearing the sack this could seem like a reprieve, it won't stop bosses making layoffs in future and it does nothing for workers in other sites.

'We've decided to live like humans'

Refugees are resisting deportations and state repression in Greece, writes Dave Sewell

REFUGEES IN Greece are resisting attempts to drive them into camps.

Under a European Union (EU) agreement with Turkey, refugees who arrive after 20 March can be deported.

The mass deportations face legal challenges after it emerged that some deportees hadn't been given the chance to apply for asylum.

Border closures mean those not deported are trapped with nowhere to go.

Hundreds of people tried to break down the fence at the border with Macedonia at Idomeni in northern Greece last Sunday.

Syrian refugees marooned at Idomeni told journalists from Socialist Worker's sister paper Workers Solidarity that they wouldn't be turned back.

Masloum, a young English teacher from Aleppo in Syria, was part of a sit-in blocking the railway line.

"We want to pressure governments on both sides of the border," he said. "They tell

Trade unionists for Calais

Saturday 24 April, 11am-5pm, Student Central, Malet St, London WC1E 7HY. Turn to page 19 for more



us it is pointless—but there's no going back for us. We've decided to live like humans and we will succeed."

Noura and Antan from Latakia were in the nearby refugee camp with their young children—the youngest is just eight months old and running a high fever.

They abandoned Syria after Russian planes bombed their home.

Antan bore the scars of six months in dictator Bashar al Assad's jails where he was tortured horribly—including by crucifixion.

Noura said, "They tell us to go to reception centres, they say it will be better there. But it's a lie."

"Many people who went in because they believed the lies are now coming back. Supposedly they can apply for asylum using Skype there."

Thousands

"But there is only one hour's internet connection and thousands of people."

Greek painter Pavlo had been helping the family.

He said, "The other day I took Noura to the United Nations High Commission For Refugees (UNHCR) tent so they could tell her about her rights to get asylum."

"The Swiss bureaucrat told her to 'go back to Syria'."

Abdullah, a graduate from Aleppo, said, "What I want is to be able to choose my future."

"There's nothing left for me in Aleppo—my home has been destroyed."

"It isn't fair that I can't choose what to do in my life because I don't have the right passport."

Abdullah was one of several thousand who waded across the Suva river over the border last month.

"We decided to cross the river and pass the border because a rumour was circulating that they would deport us all back to Turkey," he said.

"Those who say that Turkey is a safe country don't know what they are talking about."

The EU wants to block the flow of refugees by force. But refugees won't go without a fight.

All anti-racists must stand with them.

Thanks to Andriána Sotiris for translation

Solidarity with refugees in Calais



VOLUNTEERS SORTING through clothes that have been donated for refugees in Calais last week. Turn to page 19 for more

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Anti-fascists stop the Nazi Golden Dawn marching

GREEK FASCIST party Golden Dawn called a demonstration at the port of Piraeus near Athens on Friday night of last week.

Thousands of refugees are camping there.

Golden Dawn thugs attacked some of the anti-fascists assembling to counter them.

News footage of a Nazi thug attacking a camera operator was shown across Greece, with a prominent Golden Dawn MP clearly visible behind him.

An anti-fascist counter-protest meant the Nazis were unable to march.



Golden Dawn thugs

Anti-racists, the shipping workers' union and refugees are to hold a mass meeting in Piraeus on Wednesday of next week.

Cuts provoke a walkout in Greece

by **PANOS GARGANAS** in Athens

GREECE'S creditors were in Athens this week negotiating more austerity.

The European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) demand the Greek budget reaches a surplus of 3.5 percent by 2018.

This will mean huge cuts. The Greek Syriza government has agreed.

But it is still negotiating over the extent of pension cuts, income tax and VAT hikes, and measures to protect debtors from culture funds.

The government has used the negotiations as

an excuse to delay putting its bill of pension cuts to parliament—and to defuse workers' opposition.

Union leaders have seized on this to delay strikes against the bill.

They have called for a 48-hour general strike when it reaches parliament, but only want token action until then.

Blockade

But their blockade broke down on Thursday of last week with a nationwide strike of public sector and media workers.

The strike was effective and the rallies were big.

Importantly, refugees walked out of the camps

near the northern cities of Thessalonica and Ioannina to join the demonstrations there.

The struggles against austerity and for refugees are linked.

The EU is imposing Greece's bailout and the border closures and deportations.

People are saying, "The same bastards who forced austerity on us are now selling out the refugees."

The left is also making this connection. To support refugees we need more staff for schools, hospitals and local authorities.

These demands directly confront the demands of the EU and IMF.